Filling up of reserved posts

1097. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the post-wise break-up of reserved posts under SC and ST categories lying vacant in various departments and undertakings under his Ministry till date;

(b) whether the employees of various other categories have also been promoted in addition to the new recruitment made on some posts during the last five years;

(c) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and

(d) the action being taken to clear the backlog of reserved posts in various categories and for promoting the SC/ST employees in accordance with the reservation rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

ICAR Failure to Control Cotton Crop Pest

1098. DR SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICAR has failed totally in controlling the sucking pests which affect the cotton crop in India;

(b) the reasons for this failure;

(c) the achievement done by our scientific community in the Agriculture Ministry in this respect; and

(d) the steps being taken to control these pests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The technology for effective mangement of sucking insects is available. However, there have been instances of outbreks of sucking pests mainly due to indiscriminate and excessive use of synthetic pesticides.

(c) Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods have been developed for control of sucking pests of cotton viz., jassids, thrips, aphids and whiteflies. The techniques developed include the use of resistant varieties, biological control agents and need based use of selective insecticides.

(d) Research on Management of cotton pests has a high priority. The work is being done to refine our IPM technology at the Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur; various centres of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Cotton; Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore; National Centre for Integrated Pest Management, New Delhi and State Agriculture Universities located in different Cotton growing zones. Also efforts are on for the transfer of protection technologies through various developmental programmes.

Bee-keeping in Rural Areas

1099. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to encourage bee-keeping in rural areas to enhance agricultural prosperity;

(b) whether it is a fact that honey production has not increased significantly in the country;

(c) the funds spent on bee-keeping during the year 1996-97 and the financial provisions for 1997-98;

(d) whether proper expenditure has not been made in this regard; and

(e) the steps proposed to reivew programmes in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir. A Central Sector Scheme of Development of Bee-keeping for